

STATE OF MINNESOTA

# Violent Crime Coordinating Council

c/o Department of Public Safety, Office of Justice Programs  
445 Minnesota Street, Suite 2300  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-1515  
Voice: 651-201-7350 – Fax: 651-284-3317

*Chief Dana Waldron, Chair - Asst. Chief Ken Reed, Vice- Chair*

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## **Meeting Minutes for 12/16/10 of the Violent Crime Coordinating Council (VCCC)**

Council members in attendance: B. Todd Jones, U.S. Attorney; Cari Gerlicher, DOC Office of Special Investigations; Dave Bjerga, BCA Acting Superintendent, Sheriffs Representatives: Bill Hutton, Matt Bostrom, Rich Stanek, and Rodney Bartsh; Chiefs of Police Representatives: Michael Goldstein, Tim Dolan, Ken Reed, Dana Waldron; County Attorneys Representatives: Hilary Caligiuri, Benjamin Bejar,

Guests: Dave Johnson, BCA-MnJIS, Michael Bosacker BCA MnJAC, Michael Campion. Commissioner of Public Safety (DPS), Jared Jordal, DPS Director of Legislative Affairs, Kip Carver (HCSO)

Office of Justice Program staff: Bob Bushman- Statewide Coordinator, Sue Perkins - State Program Administrator, Jeri Boisvert -Executive Director

Legal Counsel: John Gross Attorney General's Office.

### **Welcome and Introductions**

Briefing books provided to all council members. Meeting called to order at 10:15  
Commissioner Campion welcomed Council members and thanked them for their willingness to serve on the newly created body. He said that despite the difficulties of the past, he is confident that legislative leaders support this effort to move forward with the VCCC and the Violent Crime Enforcement Teams (VCET). He observed that this body is in a unique position to develop and/or re-define policies and best practices to improve law enforcement and public safety.

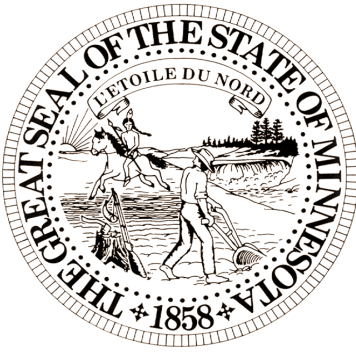
### **Review of Agenda**

Agenda approved with no changes- motion by Waldron, seconded by Caligiuri. Motion passed.

### **Enabling Legislation Review**

Jared Jordal, Director of Legislative Affairs for the Department of Public Safety passed out a review of the legislation that defines Council duties. He went over the handout (attached) and briefly discussed the composition and leadership of the new house and senate. Members Caligiuri and Stanek asked clarifying questions related to Council duties; specifically they were concerned that this body is not charged with making recommendations for funding nor is the Statewide Coordinator and others mandated with delivering specific VCET information to the Council. Sue Perkins assured the members that both she and Bob Bushman see their roles as staff to the VCCC, to provide all information needed for the body to conduct its work. In addition, the Council is charged with developing eligibility criteria and a conflict free process for allocating funding which provides a significant opportunity to advise the Commissioner on funding decisions.

Cari Gerlicher suggested the development of sub-committees to begin to address the policy issues that the Council will be addressing including but not limited to: 1) assist in developing a process to collect and share information to improve the investigation and prosecution of gang and drug offenses; 2) develop policies



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that prohibit the improper use of personal characteristics such as race, color, national origin, gender, or religion to target individuals for law enforcement action, prosecution, or forfeiture action and 3) subject to approval of the commissioner of public safety, adopt narrowly tailored, objective criteria and identifying characteristics for use in determining whether individuals are or may be members of gangs involved in criminal activity. This recommendation was supported by Kip Carver and the Council agreed to revisit the idea at the February meeting.

### **Action of Election of Chair/Vice Chair**

The legislation calls for the chair to serve a two year term and the appointment of the chair shall alternate between a person who works in the metro area and one who works in Greater Minnesota. Sue Perkins advised the members that the previous Council elected a chair from one region and the vice chair from the alternative region to ensure continuity.

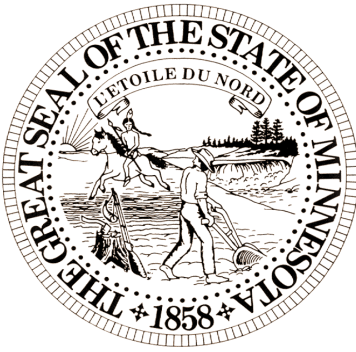
B. Todd Jones nominated Chief Thomas Smith to be the Chair of the VCCC. Ken Reed amended the nomination by nominating himself as Vice Chair. Cari Gerlicher nominated Dana Waldron as chair. Rodney Bartsh moved to close nominations and moved to elect Dana Waldron as chair and Ken Reed as Vice Chair. Tim Dolan seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**Plan for appointing citizen members-** Legislation calls for citizen members to be selected after consultation with the state Councils of Color. Sue advised the group that OJP has sent a letter, an email and called the Councils for recommendations. The American Indian Affairs Council has made a recommendation which has been submitted to the Commissioner for approval. (In addition the legislation called for a Native American law enforcement officer to serve and Chief Garr Pemberton of the Leech Lake Police Department has agreed to serve and has been approved by the Commissioner.) He will attend the next meeting.) Hector Garcia of the Chicano and Latino Affairs Council indicated that he would like to serve on the committee. To date we have received no recommendations from either the Council on Asian and Pacific Islanders and the Council on Black Minnesotans. Hector Garcia has offered to assist OJP staff in making contact with both Councils to secure recommendations. Staff will work with both Mr. Garcia and John Gross from the Attorney General's office to ensure that citizen members attend the February meeting.

**Meeting schedules-** the Council agreed that the next meeting would be held Wednesday, February 9th, 2011, 10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the Department of Corrections.

**By-Laws** – deferred to the next meeting.

**Updates on SF2725 Work Group-**David Johnson, Director of MNJIS, provided an overview of the committee's work to date. They had many presentations on data systems and issues. A major obstacle to their work was the lack of a common definition of "gang data base" and two very disparate schools of thought. They had a legislative hearing on December 4<sup>th</sup>. He reported that their report which is due shortly



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will contain recommendations for further action, some of which will impact the VCCC. Recommendations include but are not limited to:

- Legislature should:
  - fund activities related to data compliance;
  - Support research on federal data classifications should be conducted;
  - Support research on the data management processes and actions of other states;
  - Define intelligence data which was recognized as a legitimate need for law enforcement
  - Support enhanced oversight of gang databases;
  - Support notifying parents of minors identified as gang engaged;
  - Support audit of gang data bases every three years;
  - Advise VCCC to develop criteria for gang identification;(already a task)
  - Support audits every three years of gang data bases.
  - Fund the development of statewide gang data base/eliminate GangNet.

**Updates on task force requirement/task visit protocols and results** -Sue Perkins reported the criteria that the legislature defined for VCET operation and certification. All teams were asked to develop new resolutions agreeing to these new requirements for certification. She reported that all VCETs have been certified for operation in 2011 and each has received six months of funding and a contract extension. If new funding is available, a new RFP will be developed and approved by the VCCC for operation after 6/30/11.

**Update from the Statewide Coordinator** - Bob Bushman reported that all VCETS and Boards were visited over the summer. Sue Perkins, Bob and John Boulger conducted extensive reviews of each agencies forfeiture and buy fund processes and procedures. Many of the agencies had already implemented improved procedures given the issues with the Metro Gang Strike Force. Many agencies were given suggestions for improvement. These agencies provided verification that they had implemented the changes before they were certified. A few issues were identified as problematic including: informant management and documentation, buy fund processes and documentation; ensuring that all seizures and forfeitures were reported under the name of the VCET to the state auditor; maintenance of individual forfeiture files and ensuring that receipts were on hand for all cash transactions. Bob reported that all recommendation have been implemented and adopted by the advisory boards including the establishment of forfeiture thresholds. Bob reported that in the next quarter both VCET Commander training and TOP GUN training will be offered.

Chief Dolan asked Bob about deconfliction and Bob explained how the RISS system worked and how effective it has been in ensuring officer safety.

**New Business-** None identified

**Meeting Adjourned at 1:30**